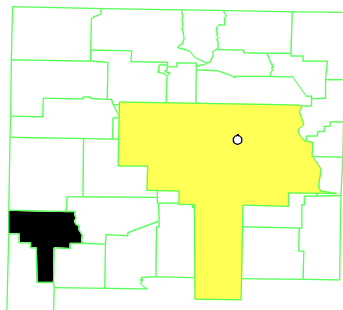


CLEVELAND MILL

NEW MEXICO

EPA ID#

NMD981155930



EPA REGION 6 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

Grant County

Updated:

June 26, 2000

Site Description

Location: ! 5 miles northeast of Silver City

Population: ! Approximately 1,200 area residents, mainly along Little Walnut Creek, draw drinking water from private wells within 3 miles of the site.

Setting: ! The site is an abandoned lead, zinc, and copper mine and mill covering about 4 acres near mine and about 10 acres of the bed of Little Walnut Creek.
! It is located 100 yards south of the Continental Divide at the headwaters of Little Walnut Creek.
! An on-site reservoir is used for recreational purposes.
! Tailings from the mill are deposited in piles in the mill area and they have also been washed into Little Walnut Creek. The piles are uncovered, unstabilized and unlined.

Hydrology: ! Run-off from the facility has acidified Little Walnut Creek and has contaminated it with metals. Residential wells installed along the creek, though not contaminated with toxic substances, have shown indicator parameters which indicate that they have been affected by the mine tailings.

Wastes and Volumes

1. Principal pollutants: arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, lead, and zinc.

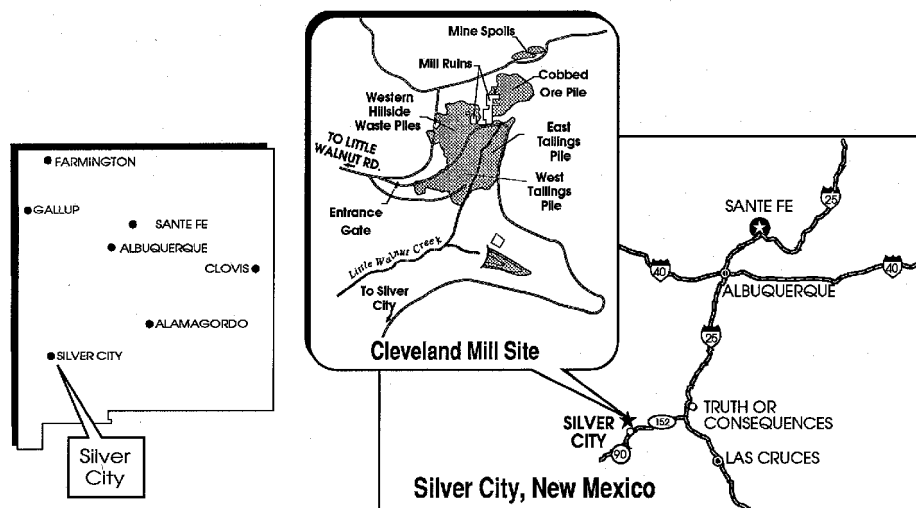
2. Volume: 164,960 cubic yards in about 9 piles and in the streambed.

Site Assessment and Ranking

NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 40.37
Proposed Date: 6/24/88
Final Date: 3/31/89
NPL Update: No. 7

Site Map and Diagram



The Remediation Process

Site History:

- ! From 1910 to 1916, 150,000 tons of ore were processed at Cleveland Mill.
- ! Tailings were disposed of outside of the mill building at the headwaters of a creek.
- ! Mill closed and moved in 1919.
- ! From 1919 through the 1950s, the site was leased to a series of people.
- ! Limited information is available on site activities from 1950 through the present (assumed abandoned).
- ! In 1985, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a Site Inspection (SI) which indicated that run-off from the facility into Little Walnut Creek contained elevated concentrations of metals.
- ! Special Notice Letters were sent to the PRPs on 12/27/89.
- ! Good faith offers from the PRPs were not received during 60 day moratorium; therefore, EPA performed a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) using funds from the trust.
- ! The RI/FS reports and the Proposed Plan were released to the public in April 1993. An extended public comment period for the Proposed Plan was held from April 9, 1993, through June 9, 1993.
- ! The ROD issued September 22, 1993 called for excavation, off site reprocessing and recycling, and site revegetation.
- ! The Consent Decree between EPA and three PRPs was entered on June 12, 1995.

Health Considerations:

- ! Direct contact and ingestion threat; shallow, on-site aquifer is contaminated with metals.

Other Environmental Risks:

! Acidic run-off from facility into Little Walnut Creek potentially transports metals into residential wells.

Record of Decision

Signed: September 22, 1993

Remedy Selected: Off site reprocessing, recycling and disposal

<u>Other Remedies Considered</u>	<u>Reason Not Chosen</u>
1. No Action	Not Protective
2. On site stabilization/disposal	Future leaching potential/long term O&M
3. On site disposal/capping	" " " " " "
4. On site stabilization/off site disposal	Cost

Community Involvement

- ! Community Involvement Plan: Developed 3/91
- ! Open houses and workshops: 8/91, 4/93, 7/94, 9/94, 11/94, 1/95, 7/97
- ! Proposed Plan Fact Sheet and Public Meeting: 4/8/93
- ! Milestone Fact Sheets: 4/93, 1/94, 3/94, 7/97
- ! Open House/Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings, 5/94, 7/94, 9/94, 11/94, 2/95, 6/95, 12/95, 10/97
- ! Citizens on site mailing list: 400
- ! Constituency Interest:
 - Primary community concerns are with other active mining operations, transportation routes of mining materials.
- ! Community Working Group established 11/94.
- ! Site Repository: Silver City Library; NMED Office, Santa Fe, NM; EPA Office, Dallas, TX
- ! Ceremony and tour to kickoff removal action 7/97

Technical Assistance Grant

- ! Availability Notice: None
- ! Letters of Intent Received: None
- ! Grant Award: N/A
- ! Current Status: No community interest in applying for TAG grant although information has been provided.

Contacts

- ! **Remedial Project Manager (EPA):** Kathleen Aisling, 214/665-8509, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
- ! **State Contact:** Robert King, 505/827-0078

! **Community Involvement Coord. (EPA):** Nancy Stonebarger, 214/665-6619, Mail Sta. 6SF-PO
! **Attorney (EPA):** James Costello, 214/665-8045, Mail Sta. 6SF-DL
! **State Coordinator (EPA):** Don Williams, 214/665-2197, Mail Sta. 6SF-LT
! **Prime Contractor: RI/FS - E&E; Design/Construction - PRP lead** (Mining Remedial Recovery Company), EPA and NMED oversight

Enforcement

! RI/FS Special Notice Letters issued 12/89.
! RI/FS was conducted using fund monies.
! ROD issued 9/93 for treatment and disposal of tailings and sediment and ground water monitoring.
! RD/RA Special Notice Letters issued 11/93.
! RD/RA Consent Decree (CD) between EPA and PRPs entered 6/12/95.
! Action Memorandum issued 7/97 for consolidation of tailings and sediment.
! Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) between EPA and PRPs to implement Action Memorandum became effective September 23, 1997.

Present Status and Issues

! Because no acceptable reprocessing facility could be found and the site was degrading rapidly, an Action Memorandum was issued on July 11, 1997. The removal action is a time-critical action and will involve treatment of the tailings and sediment and disposal in an on-site cell. The remedy will begin as a removal action because surface water quality has deteriorated due to acidic runoff carrying metals into Little Walnut Creek.
! The Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) between EPA and the PRPs became effective September 23, 1997. Under the AOC, the PRPs will perform the removal action and fund EPA and NMED oversight of the removal action.
! Construction of the multi-layered cap, the last construction step in the removal action, was completed in late October.
! Site restoration activities, including engineered erosion control measures and reseeded, were completed on November 19, 1998.
! The final site report, dated December 10, 1998, marked the end of the removal action.
! Remaining site activities include amending the Record of Decision to reflect the work performed during the removal action, development and implementation of an operations and maintenance plan, and finalization of the ground and surface water monitoring plan.
! A public open house meeting was held on June 9, 1999, to discuss the proposed amendment to the Record of Decision and the site status.
! A site completion ceremony, attended by approximately 60 people, was held on July 16, 1999, to celebrate the completion of the clean-up of the site.
! An Amended Record of Decision, stating that no further remedial action is necessary at the site, was issued on September 20, 1999.
! A Preliminary Close Out Report, marking the end of remedial activities at the site, was signed on September 23, 1999.
! The February 2000 Operations and Maintenance Plan was approved by EPA.
! The Final Site Closeout Report was signed on June 16, 2000.
! The EPA expects to delete the site from the NPL in the fall of 2000.

Benefits

! After the removal action, the site will be addressed in a single long-term remedial phase focusing on contamination at the entire site and monitoring of the ground water.

! Remediation of the tailings will address a source of contamination to Little Walnut Creek and a potential threat to the residential wells that are already established.

! The site and adjacent five mile stretch of Little Walnut Creek is in a rapidly developing residential area.

! The PRPs have also considered giving a piece of this land to the county or city for a park.